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CAERLEON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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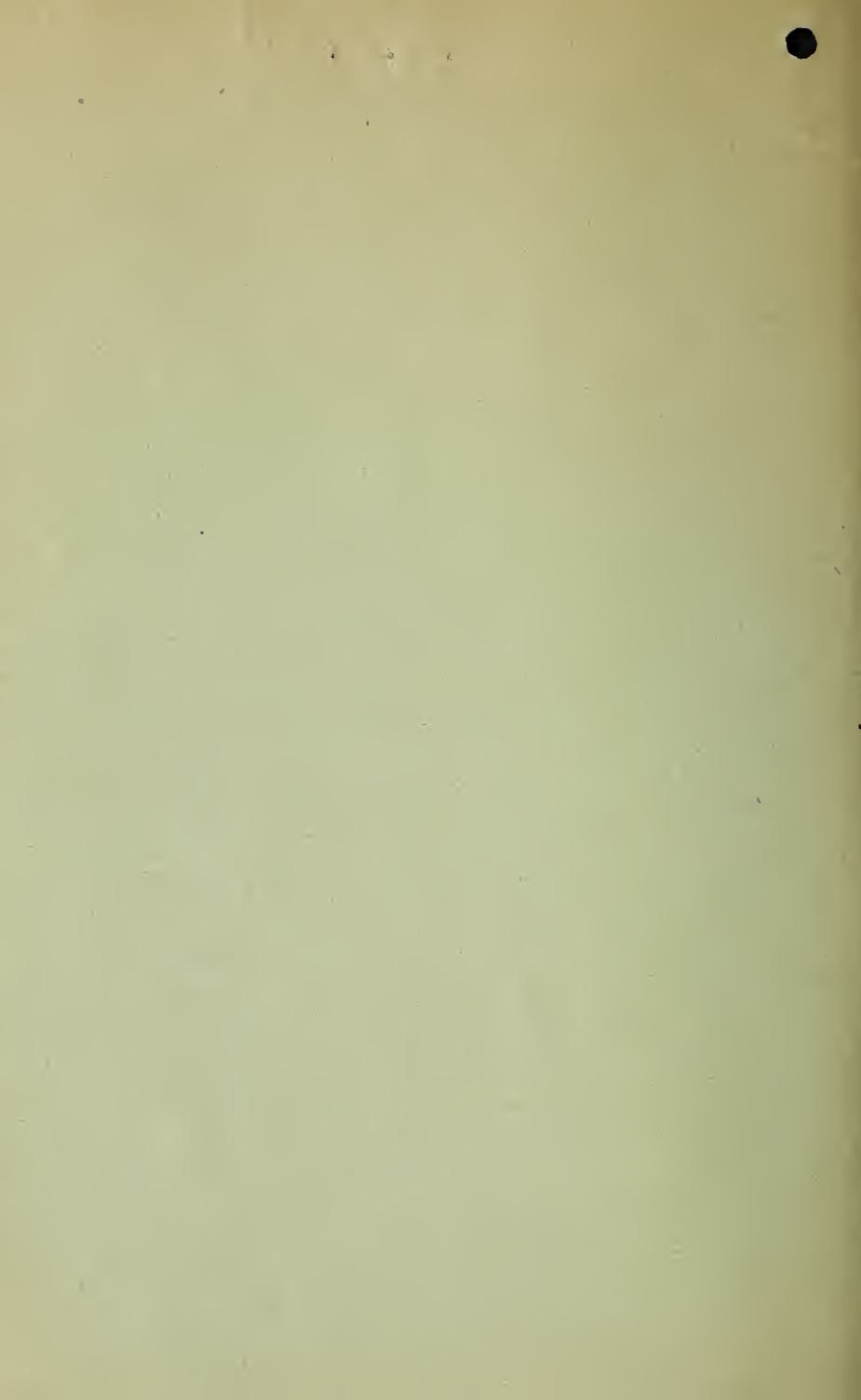
Medical Officer's Report

FOR

Year ended
31st December, 1938

W. H. REYNOLDS,
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.)
Medical Officer of Health.

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1890-1891

1892-1893

Public Health Committee 1938

SECOND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

COUN. MRS. GRIFFITH JONES, M.B., B.S. (Lond.)
CHAIRMAN.

COUN. W. LOVETT.
COUN. I. A. WILLIAMS.

Public Health
Committee
1887

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1887

ALBANY, N. Y.

1888

Caerleon Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

“ BROAD TOWERS,”

CAERLEON.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Madam Chairman, and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1938 upon the vital statistics, sanitary circumstances and sanitary administration of your area during the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area, acres	3405
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Made up as follows:

Old U.D. District	...	658
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Added on April 1st, 1935:

Parish of Llanhenwg	15.2	}	Total of 2747.8 added to old Caerleon Urban District
Parish of Christchurch	1255		
Llantarnam U. District	35.6		
Parish of Llangattwg	1442		

Area of Caerleon U.D. Council

as from 1st April, 1935	3405.8
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Resident Population, 1938	3385
Resident Population, 1937	3347
Resident Population, 1936	3347
Resident Population, 1928	...	...	...	...	2583
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1938	...	...	...	...	864
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1937	...	...	...	...	822
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1936	...	...	...	...	803
Number of Inhabited Houses, 1928	...	...	...	...	428
Rateable Value, 1938	...	...	...	...	£16,682
Rateable Value, 1937	...	...	...	...	£16,379
Rateable Value, 1928	...	...	...	...	£11,119
Value of a penny rate, 1938	...	...	...	Gross	£69 10 0
Value of a penny rate, 1938	...	...	...	Net	£63 19 7
Value of penny rate, 1928	...	...	...		£46 6 7

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Your Area has not altered in extent since the Review Order of 1935.

For the benefit of new members I will recapitulate the additions to and extent of your area.

The original district is situated on the right bank of the River Usk about three miles from Newport, (Mon.). The River Usk forms its southern boundary, and the River Avon Llwydd, a tributary of the Usk, forms its eastern boundary. The soil of the district is chiefly clay and marl. The population is residential, agricultural and industrial, the last named being for the most part tin workers.

On April 1st, 1935, the area administered by the Council was considerably increased, as follows.

The Parish of Llangattwg was divided, and the western portion, containing an area of approximately 1442 acres was added to the urban district of Caerleon.

That portion of the urban district of Llantarnam situated within the loop formed by the boundary of the urban district with the adjoining parishes of Llangattwg and Malpas forming a peninsular, and containing approximately 35.6 acres, was also added to the urban district of Caerleon. The Rateable value of this area is nominal.

In addition to the above, there was added to the urban district of Caerleon, that portion of the parish of Christchurch in the Magor Rural District which is not included in the provisions of the Newport Extension Act, 1934, north of a line commencing at a point in the centre of a stream intersecting the extended Newport County Borough Boundary (1935) at the North West corner of Brickyard Wood; thence proceeding approximately parallel to the Newport-Chepstow County Road in the centre of the said stream so far as it continues in a north-Easterly direction: thence along the boundary between fields Nos. 201 and 393 Ordnance Map (1920 Edition) to the southernmost point of Flat Wood, and along the south-east boundary of the said wood to a point where it joins the existing parish boundary at the north-west corner of field No. 234 Ordnance Map (1920 Edition), west of Langstone cottages, this to be known as the parish of Christchurch.

The Llangattwg part of the district is chiefly agricultural but also includes the Star Brick Works, and the Caerleon Tinworks of Messrs. Partridge, Jones and John Paton. There is also a Tan Yard and a Saw Mills, within the area.

Excavation of the old Roman encampment is proceeding under the direction of the Office of Works and including the site in the town known as the Myrtle Cottage site.

Christchurch, including the Coldra and Treberth Estates, and a part of Llanwern Road, is a rapidly developing residential district, traversed by the main Newport-Chepstow Road (the main London-West Wales Road). The proposed Monmouthshire County Council Maternity Home, has still not yet been opened, owing to difficulties of drainage. The hospital has been fully equipped and will be one of the most modern of its type in the Country.

As mentioned before, many of the houses in the old area, particularly in that part known as Caerleon ultra-Pontem (the "Village," a small area on the opposite bank of the River Usk, and joined to the rest of the District by Caerleon bridge), are not suitable for habitation, and appropriate action is being taken in the matter.

The original Caerleon is flat. One third of the new district of Christchurch is at a low level, but the remainder rises to a height of 300 feet above sea level, the Church there being a landmark, for miles around. The district is served by the Great Western Railway and by various Bus Services.

The Council's Housing Scheme is at Lodge Avenue, an elevated site at the western end of the district. The Bus Service has been

extended to the site, and the disposal of storm water from the site improved. (See later in Report).

In addition to the proposed Coldra Maternity Home, the Newport Borough Mental Hospital is situated in Caerleon. The old Public Assistance Institution known as Cambria House, is occupied by about 50 Basque Children refugee's from Spain.

As will be seen later in the report, progress is being made in the matter of drainage, but the original schemes prepared by the Council had to be abandoned and new ones prepared, owing to unforeseen developments. An extensive housing scheme is under consideration in Christchurch.

A close watch is being kept on milk supplies, both with regard to the milk itself, and the conditions under which it is produced. Much improvement is reported in many of the farms, and cow-barns, etc., are being cleansed and in some cases rebuilt.

A lecture on Public Health matters was delivered at the Town Hall on February 8th., by Dr. Owen, of the County Council.

The Council has under consideration the County Council's scheme for the provision of Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases. The scarlet fever epidemic continued to spread during January, and appropriate steps were taken to check it. (See Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases).

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births.	Male.	Female	Total.	
Legitimate.	23	18	41	
Illegitimate.	1	3	4	
Still Births.				
Legitimate	1	1	2	
Illegitimate.	0	1	1	
Total Number of Births (Live)	45
Total Number of Births (Still)	3
Total Number of Births (Live and Still)	48

Birth Rate (Live) for year, per 1,000	...	...	13.3
Birth Rate (Live and Still) for year, per 1,000	...	...	14.2
Birth Rate 1937, per 1,000	...	...	10.5
Birth Rate 1928, per 1,000	...	...	11.2
Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1938, per 1,000			15.1

I am pleased to report a considerable increase in the Birth Rate, this year's being the highest recorded during the last 10 years. It still falls short, however, of the rate for the whole country. Together with this increase in the Birth Rate, is a decrease in the death rate. (See below).

DEATHS

The number of Deaths in the area during 1938 has been as follows:

Males:	19
Females:	15
Total:	34

The Causes of Death were as follows:—

	M	F
Myocarditis and Senility	4	1
Chronic Myocarditis	3	1
Hemiplegia	0	3
Fatty heart	0	1
Aneurysm of aorta	1	0
Hyperpiesis	1	0
Chronic Bronchitis	2	1
Pulmonary T.B.	3	1
T.B. Bronchopneumonia	1	0
Embolism following operation for hernia	1	0
Acute Leukaemia	0	1
Ulcerative Colitis	0	1
Cirrhosis of liver	0	1
Cancer of larynx	2	0
Cancer of stomach	1	1
Cancer of uterus	0	2
Anencephalus	0	1
	19	15

The ages at Death were as follows:—

			M	F
Over 90	...	...	0	1
80 — 90	...	...	2	0
70 — 80	...	...	6	2
60 — 70	...	...	7	7
50 — 60	...	...	2	1
40 — 50	...	...	0	3
30 — 40	...	...	1	0
25 — 30	...	...	1	0
4 days	...	...	0	1
			19	15

Of these deaths

11 were over 70 or 32%
25 were over 60 or 73%

Death Rate 1938, per 1,000	...	...	10.04
Death Rate 1937, per 1,000	...	...	12.55
Death Rate 1936, per 1,000	...	...	9.9
Death Rate 1935, per 1,000	...	...	10.4
Death Rate for England and Wales 1938	...	...	11.6

I am happy to report that the death rate has dropped considerably as compared with last years returns, and is now lower than that of all England and Wales.

It is interesting to note that approximately three quarters of the deaths were of people over 60 years of age.

There was no death under 25 years of age, with the exception of a deformed infant which lived four days and could not possibly survive in any case.

With regard to the actual causes of deaths there is an increase in the deaths from tubercle and cancer. The cases of tuberculosis however, were old standing cases and incurable. Two cases of cancer of the larynx are noteworthy.

The year has been particularly hard on old people, and as pointed out above, nearly three quarters of the deaths were of people of 60 years of age, the majority being between 60 and 70, but one surviving to 94. There were no deaths from accident or violence.

MATERNAL MORALITY

For many years there has been no death in this area from any cause associated with childbirth, and this happy state has been preserved during 1938. As pointed out last year, the drug "Pron-tosil," in the form of "Streptocide" is supplied free of charge, throughout the County, by the County Health Department, and is kept in stock by your health department for any case of mid-wifery needing it. It has been freely used where required during the year, and gives really amazing results, in the control of streptococcal infections.

INFANT MORTALITY

Only one infant under the age of one year has died during the last twelve months.

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age, 1938:
22 per 1,000 live Births

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age, 1937:
114 per 1,000 live Births

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age, 1928: ——— Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age for England and Wales, 1938.
53 per 1,000 live Births.

There is a considerable decrease in the Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age as compared with last years returns, the figure now being under that for all England and Wales.

The case in question was an anencephalic infant which lived 4 days and could not in any case have survived.

The scarlet fever epidemic spread somewhat during the early part of the year, but was brought under control by appropriate measures. Sporadic cases of measles have occurred during the year and it is interesting to note that in every case the child had had a previous attack during the last three years. The present cases were correspondingly mild. Bronchitis and rheumatism have again been present, the latter probably due to the damp nature of many of the houses, and the mist emanating from an unusually winding river. As in the past the health of the people does not appear to be unduly prejudiced by any occupational or environmental condition, other than accidents at the works.

The incidence of tuberculosis has decreased considerably, being in fact nil, but there have been several deaths of old standing cases. The usual close co-operation with the Welsh National Memorial Association, continues, and much good work has been done.

As mentioned above, a lecture on Public Health was delivered under the auspices of the County Council Publicity Scheme and further lectures are contemplated.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(1) Public Health Officers of the Authority:

- (a) One part time Medical Officer of Health,
Dr. W. H. Reynolds, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.
(Lond.).
- (b) One part time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector,
Mr. F. S. Swash, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.Struct.E.,
M.R.S.I.

Public Health Committee.—This committee consists of three members of the Council, including the Chairman *ex officio* and meets once a month, before the Annual meeting, to consider the reports of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Officer.

(2) Nursing in the Home.

(a) General and Maternity. By the Midwives Act, it became necessary for the Midwife to be a whole time Official, and early this year the County Council appointed Nurse Goldsmith as the Midwife for the Caerleon Urban Area. Nurse Barnes, who has given such excellent service to the town for over 20 years, has been retained as the District Nurse for the old urban area.

In 1937 a Nursing Association was formed in the Christchurch area, to cover Christchurch, and along the Chepstow Road to include Llanmartin, Langstone and neighbouring parishes. This nurse, who took up her duties in August, now does all the general work of the areas mentioned, together with the midwifery with the exception of Christchurch, which is served by Nurse Goldsmith, as midwife for the new Urban Area.

In 1937 Nurse Barnes treated 166 patients, paying, in the course of the year, 1,525 visits.

In October 1938 Nurse Jones of the Christchurch Association left and Nurse Morgan took her place. During 1938 these two nurses paid 1,434 general visits, and 92 visits in connection with confinements, a total of 1,526 visits.

It will be seen that both the Caerleon and Christchurch nurses have done very valuable work, and the formation of the Christchurch Association has been fully justified. That the organisation is much appreciated is obvious from the fact that the work is steadily increasing.

(b) Infectious Diseases. No arrangements are made for nursing cases of this kind in the home.

(3) **National Health Insurance.** The local authority is in no way related to this Service.

(4) **Poor Law Medical Out Relief.** This Service is administered under the supervision of the Monmouthshire County Council Public Assistance Committee. A large number of cases are dealt with annually, those requiring hospital treatment (other than surgical) being removed to Coedygric or Chepstow Institutions.

(5) **Laboratory Facilities.** The Laboratory of the Monmouthshire County Council, situated at the County Hall, in Newport, is available to the district, and is extensively used, for the examination of swabs, Blood tests, etc. Samples of food, milk, etc. are examined by the County Analyst, Mr. G. R. Thompson, Dock St., Newport. A supply of diphtheria antitoxin and prontosil is always kept available by the Medical Officer of Health.

(6) **Legislation in Force.** No change.

(7) **Hospitals.**—There are no public or voluntary hospitals within the area, available for the inhabitants.

(a) The Hospitals etc., outside the area which are used are as follows:—*See table on top of page 10.*

(b) Availability of beds for various services. As already stated, there are no hospitals within the area, but no difficulty is experienced in getting patients admitted to the various institutions enumerated above.

Name and Situation.	Purpose	Management
Royal Gwent Hospital Newport, Mon.	General	Voluntary Agency
Royal Infirmary, Cardiff.	do.	do.
Coedygric House Griffithstown.	do.	(Mon. C.C. P.A.C.)
Cefn Mably, Glam.	Tuberculosis	Welsh Nat. Mem. Ass.
Talgarth Sanatorium Brecon.	do.	do.
Glan Ely Hospital, Cardiff.	Surgical Tuberculosis	do.
Allt-yr-yn Fever Hospital, Newport, Mon.	Infectious Diseases	Corporation Newport Borough
Chepstow Isolation Hospital.	do.	Chepstow U.D.C.
Monmouth Isolation Hospital.	do.	Monmouth U.D.C.
Nursing Home, Tredegar.	Maternity	Monmouthshire County Council

(8) **Maternity and Nursing Homes.**—There are no such Homes registered in the district.

Use is made of the Monmouthshire County Council Nursing Home in Tredegar. There are various private nursing homes available in Newport, and some maternity cases are admitted to the Royal Gwent Hospital.

As pointed out last year the Monmouthshire County Council, under the guidance of Dr. Rocyn Jones, proposes to open shortly the Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital, at the Coldra. This is a large building with $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land, and its adaptation has produced an up-to-date Institution. In fact it is regarded as one of the best in the Country. Technical questions of drainage are still holding up its opening, but as detailed later in the report, these are being over-come.

(9) **Maternal Mortality.**—Such cases are especially investigated by the Medical Officer of Health. The opening of the new Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital referred to above will assist greatly in the reduction of the maternal mortality rate, not only in this area (where it is fortunately nil) but in the whole of Monmouthshire. Another important step in this direction, is the provision, free, by the County Council, of prontosil, to be available in every maternity case requiring it.

- (10) **Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children.**—There is a hostel for unmarried mothers, at Nantyderry, in this County. It is maintained by voluntary subscriptions and continues its good work. There are 10 beds in the Institution. The object of the Hostel is to provide for unmarried women who have borne good characters and are expecting a first baby. They get thus, that privacy which is unobtainable in a public hospital and retain their self respect. The women are admitted one month before the date of expectation and remain for three months after the confinement, and are not separated from their children during that period. They are taught useful work during their stay and when required arrangements are made, if possible, for the boarding out of the babies.

St. Cadoc's Home, Caerleon, takes in homeless children. It is provided for by the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society.

- (11) **Institutional Provision for Mental Defectives.**—No such institution is provided by the Local Authority, all mental cases being sent to the County Mental Hospital at Abergavenny.

The Newport Borough Mental Hospital is within the Urban Area, but except for private patients, is confined to residents in the Borough.

- (12) **Ambulance Facilities.**—(a) **Infectious Cases.**—The Borough of Newport Ambulance is used for cases sent to Allt-yr-yn Hospital, and the other isolation Hospitals provide an Ambulance when required.

(b) **Non-infectious and Accident cases.**—Until October, the Newport Borough Accident, etc., Ambulance was used to serve this Area. On October 19th, 1937, the Newport Corporation wrote to the Caerleon Urban District Council, stating that they were immediately stopping the service. Efforts were made, in conjunction with Cwmbran Council (whose service had also been stopped) to get the Corporation to reconsider their decision, but to no avail.

Eventually Cwmbran Urban District Council decided to buy their own Ambulance and to hire it to Caerleon Urban District Council on the same terms as did Newport Borough. This Ambulance, a fully equipped Austin Ambulance, has done very valuable work in this area. By a resolution of the Council, the charges for the Ambulance and also the Hospital charges for Infectious Diseases are now borne by the Council, in those cases in which the patient is a ratepayer.

(c) For necessitous cases the Public Assistance Ambulance is used.

(13) Clinics and Treatment Centres.—The Infant Welfare Centre is held at Tan House, Mill Street, Caerleon, on alternate Wednesday afternoons, from 2 to 4 o'clock. Dr. Mary Gordon, Assistant Medical Officer, Monmouthshire County Council is in charge.

During the year 1938, 44 new infants under one year of age attended, and 14 from one to five years of age.

The number of attendances of infants under one year of age was 534, and of those from one to five years of age 343.

Nursing mothers made 204 attendances and expectant mothers 24.

This is a considerable increase on last year's figures and shows that the service was appreciated.

The Ante-natal Clinic for the area is held at Stanley Road, Gold Tops, Newport, on alternate Fridays.

Ante-Natal Clinics.	}	County Council Clinics.
School Clinics.		
Orthopaedic Clinics.		
Artificial Light Clinics.		

Tuberculosis.—Facilities for treatment of Tuberculosis are provided by the County Council, which body contracts with the Welsh National Memorial Association for hospital and dispensary treatment. The Tuberculosis Hospital is at Cefn Mably, Glamorganshire, the Sanatorium at Talgarth, Breconshire, and Surgical Tuberculosis is treated at Glan Ely Hospital, Cardiff. The Tuberculosis Dispensary is at Palmyra Place, Newport, where patients from this district are seen by appointment with the Physician.

Treatment Centres for Venereal Diseases.—The Royal Gwent Hospital has a V.D. Section in the Out-patient Department.

(14) Local Government Act, 1929.—The Local Authority is not concerned with the recent transfer of medical services from the Guardians.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Public Cleaning.—The motor system of refuse collection introduced in 1937 has proved very satisfactory. A Trailer for scavenging is hauled by a Ford Tug, and serves a double purpose, being used in addition to scavenging, for general haulage and road purposes. The work is carried out by the Council's own Workmen. Refuse is collected twice a week from all parts of the district, and removed to the tip on the Usk Road.

Smoke Abatement.—No nuisance of this type exists.

Schools.—The Sanitary arrangements and water supply of the local schools are excellent.

Cemetery.—As reported last year a new cemetery has become necessary, and six acres of land are being acquired on a hill site along the Usk Road. The land consists of well drained loam, as ascertained by trial holes 9 feet deep, in an excellent situation. There are no houses within the prescribed distance from the site, and there is no danger of pollution of any springs used for drinking purposes. The approval of the Ministry of Health will be sought in 1939.

Bed Bugs.—No nuisance of this type has been reported during the year.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye Laws and Regulations.—There are now within the area, the Caerleon Tinworks, the Star Brickworks, the Tan Yard, and the Saw Mills. In all cases, the sanitary conditions are quite satisfactory. In addition there are numerous Garages, Bakehouses, etc., subject to periodic inspection by the Sanitary Officer.

Rag Flock Act, 1911 and 1928.—There are no premises in the district for the manufacture or sale of rag flock.

Water Supply.—The main water supply is delivered from the Newport Corporation water works, and is satisfactory in every way. No analysis has been made by the Council during the year, as this is undertaken by the Newport Authorities.

Various houses are still using springs for their water supply, and these springs are the subjects of inspection by the Sanitary Officers. As far as possible efforts are being made to abolish these sources of water supply, and to have all houses connected to the mains.

Rivers and Streams.—No action was taken with regard to checking pollution, as both the Rivers Avon Llwydd and Usk are contaminated outside the district.

Drainage and Sewerage.—After the Public enquiry, reported last year, which took place on Dec. 9th, 1937, the Council prepared a simplified scheme for drainage of the Caerleon -ultra-Pontem area. By this scheme it was intended to drain into the River Usk for 2 hours on the ebb tide, and the scheme was practically approved by the Usk Board on Conservators. However, new Building schemes were proposed in the Christchurch area, which would require drainage into the " Village " system, and inevitably led to the abandonment of the ebb tide scheme.

Fresh plans for a different scheme are now being prepared by the surveyor for a system that will give full purification to the sewage from the whole area. A contribution towards the cost is being made by the Housing Concerns. Negotiations are in progress with the landowners concerned for the necessary ground and easements.

Alterations have had to be made also in the case of the Treberth scheme, by reason of the fact that the County Council has run the sewer from the proposed Lydia Beynon Maternity Hospital down the drive of the institution to connect with the Council's main sewer. Conferences have taken place between representatives of the Council, and those of the Board of Governors of the Williams Charity, and consideration given to the proposals for this Council to take over the Treberth plant.

Progress is very slow in both cases, and it is doubtful if either scheme will be brought to fruition before 1940.

The rest of the Council's drainage scheme is kept in perfect order by periodical inspection by the Sanitary Officer.

Difficulty was experienced at the Council's Housing Scheme in the disposal of surface and storm water. To deal with this a bye pass pipe was laid from Lodge Avenue, past the Town Hall, to connect with the Mill Street sewer. This has been very satisfactory, and has given excellent service.

Closet Accommodation.—A number of hand flushed closets still remain in the district, and in some instances two or more houses are still being served by the same closet.

Efforts are being made to alter this system, but it will be impossible to completely eradicate the evil until such time as the new sewage schemes are in full operation.

Shops.—The Shops in the district are regularly inspected as regards cleanliness and sanitation. Certain nuisances reported, have been dealt with by the Sanitary Officer and abated. This Council does not administer the Food and Drugs Act, this being done by the County Council.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—The Bullmoor Swimming Baths are the only baths within the area of the Council. These Baths are fitted with efficient sterilising and filtering plant, and the arrangements continue to be perfectly satisfactory.

Rats.—Rats have again been reported in a number of cases. All have been satisfactorily dealt with. A supply of rat bait is kept available at the Council Offices for the use of the public.

The Council Tip was fumigated in September to destroy rats.

Mortuary.—This area is sadly lacking in mortuary accommodation, there being nowhere to which bodies may be conveyed after accidents.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

(1).—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

1.	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	32
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	55
2.	(a)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925)	...	...	...	...	...	0
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	0
3.		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	...	...	...	...	...	8
4.		Number of Dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	4

(2).—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notice.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority, or its Officers	8
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(3).—Action under Statutory Powers.

1.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.				
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	6	
(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	...	...	6	
2.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.				
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	2	
(b)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	...	...	2	
3.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.				
(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition orders were made	...	...	7	
(b)	Number of dwelling houses which were demolished in pursuance of Demolition orders	...	...	4	
4.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.				
(a)	Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing orders were made.	...	...	0	
(b)	Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	0	

(4).—Housing Act 1935 and 1936 Overcrowding.

1.	(a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	3
	(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	3
	(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...	20
2.		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	0
3.	(a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	3
	(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	14
4.		Number of cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after steps have been taken for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	0

Overcrowding has been considerably relieved. A certain amount of private building is going on, and the Council proposes to commence further housing Schemes. There is rapid development in the Coldra area, and to a lesser extent the Treberth. Much more rapid development may be anticipated on completion of the sewerage schemes, especially in the Christchurch and Coldra areas.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk.—Official Designations.

The Ministry of Health has prescribed by the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936, that Milk in future shall be graded as Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested or Accredited. This means milk complying with the following conditions.

1. **Pasteurised** Milk has been heated at 145 degrees Fahr. for 30 minutes to destroy any disease germs.
2. **Tuberculin Tested** Milk comes from cows that have passed the tuberculin test for freedom from tuberculosis.
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised) is Tuberculin Tested milk which is also pasteurised.
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Certified) is Tuberculin Tested milk which is bottled on the farm.
3. **Accredited** Milk comes from cows that have passed a veterinary inspection, but not a test for tuberculosis.

All these milks are periodically tested for cleanliness. They can only be sold under a licence from the local authority.

Milk may be sold without a special designation, but the designations shown above are the only ones that are officially recognised.

There are registered in the area 16 wholesale producers and traders, and 16 retailers.

Systematic inspections have taken place during the year. The Regulations of the Milk and Dairies Order 1926, and the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1923 and 1936 and 1938, have been complied with.

The conditions under which milk is produced are supervised by this Authority but the actual testing of milk is done by the County Council.

Meat and Other Foods.

The Slaughterhouse has been inspected three times per week.

The results of these inspections are shown in the following table.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (estimated average)	24	9	147	735	135
Number inspected ...	95 per cent of above.				
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis</i>	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1	Nil.
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	20	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	Nil.	3.8	Nil.
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>	—	—	—	—	—
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—

Adulteration.—There has been no indication for action in this matter.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—These examinations are carried out by the County Analyst Mr. G. R. Thompson, Dock Street, Newport.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

Inspections of Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	96
Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	7
Inspections of Workshops (including Bakehouses, Garages, etc)	...	...	...	22
Inspections of Cowbarns and Dairies	...	...	...	59
Inspections of Houses	...	...	...	55
Total Number of Inspections				239

Four Statutory notices were served and ten Informal notices.

The result of the notices was that all were complied with.

These related to such matters as pigkeeping, offal, greyhounds, etc.

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Pro-secutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the public Health Acts:—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—
Want of ventilation ...	2	1	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances (defective smoke pipe, etc.) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation (insufficient; unsuitable or defective; not separate for sexes) ...	4	1	—	—
Total ...	6	2	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

Conditions generally in factories and workshops is satisfactory. There is still room for improvement on some farms, but cow-sheds and barns are all being improved, cleansed and in some cases rebuilt.

NUISANCES.

Eight notices have been served in the matter of public nuisances, and all have been complied with.

NUTRITION.

The Council has decided to support the National and County Scheme for Health Propaganda. Literature has been distributed, and lectures are being arranged.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The Scarlet Fever epidemic reported last year, spread somewhat in January, and it was decided to close the schools for just over a fortnight. This had the desired effect of checking the spread, by the middle of February. No further cases occurred until July, when two cases were discovered in Ashwell. These two cases were removed to hospital, and the whole district supplied with gargle. No other case occurred afterwards during the year.

Sporadic cases of measles have appeared frequently during the year, and in each case it was noticed that *the child had had a previous attack during the last three years*. The cases were correspondingly mild.

The intended diphtheria immunisation of school children reported last year was compelled by May, 1938, and a full report sent to the Welsh Board of Health. 70% of the schoolchildren were immunised, with absolutely no ill-effects, and no case of diphtheria has since occurred.

The School premises were disinfected after the closure. Intimations of disease from the School Master have been made use of by the Medical Officer of Health.

The usual winter ailments have been present, together with one case of pneumonia.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

(OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING 1938.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Small Pox ...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	16	6	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0
(including paratyphoid)			
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	1	0	0
Other diseases generally notifiable			
—erysipelas ...	1	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
35	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
65 and up.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0

Milk, malt, and oil, etc., are still being supplied to the children in school.

Full use is made of the facilities provided by the County Council for the examination of Pathological and Bacteriological specimens.

I am very happy to report that there was no new case of tuberculosis recorded in this area during the year, either pulmonary or surgical. This is no doubt accounted for by the vastly improved housing conditions, the gradual elimination of the ancient dwellings existing about the district, better feeding, and the close co-operation which exists with the Welsh National Memorial Association.

The deaths from tubercle have increased, but as pointed out previously, all were old, and well-established cases, with no chance of recovery.

CANCER.

The incidence of cancer has increased, there being six deaths from this disease, viz:

Larynx 2 males; Uterus 2 females; Stomach 1 male, 1 female.

The ages at death were as follows:

Larynx 66, 69; Uterus 49, 68; Stomach 78 (male), 60 (female).

This represents 17.6% of the total deaths in the district from all causes, as compared with 9.5% last year, or almost double.

The two cases of laryngeal cancer are noteworthy.

VACCINATIONS.

No vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health (as such) under the Public Health (Small Pox prevention) Regulations 1917. The number of vaccinations performed by the Public Vaccinator were as follows:

(a) Primary 11; (b) Re-vaccination 0.

DISINFECTION.

The Councils revised methods of disinfection have proved very satisfactory during the year. In addition to the burner for sulphur and formalin, there is now available a hand worked pumping machine, which forces the disinfecting fumes under pressure into

the infected premises. This was found particularly valuable in the disinfection of the school premises after closure. There is also available a spraying machine for disseminating liquid disinfectant in situations where the other methods are impracticable.

No facilities exist here for the disinfection of mattresses, etc., and these are sent for the purpose to the County Authorities.

Fumigation of the tip for rats, and the testing of drains is also carried out by the pump already referred to.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925.

No persons employed in the milk trade were found to be suffering from Tuberculosis. No difficulty was experienced in the removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925. Eye diseases are treated by the Eye Surgeon in Newport, either privately or at the Royal Gwent Hospital.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

This disease has been completely absent in the area.

The absence of any new case of tubercle has been a satisfactory feature of the year. Progress in the major schemes has been very slow, but it is hoped that the foundations are being laid that they may be brought to fruition in the near future.

I am, Madam Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

W. H. REYNOLDS,

M.R.C.S., (Eng.), L.R.C.P., (Lond.)

Medical Officer of Health.





